

Appl. No.: 10/549,492
Amdt. dated October 31, 2008
Reply to Office Action of July 31, 2008

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office Action, Claims 1-6 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,047,264 to Takahashi et al. ("*Takahashi*") in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,728,125 to Wild ("*Wild*"), Claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite, and Claims 7-8 and 10 were indicated as allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejections under § 112, second paragraph. In response, Applicants have canceled Claims 1-9, amended Claim 10, and added new Claims 36-41.

In particular, independent Claim 10 was rejected under § 112, second paragraph because the claim recites the phrase "or the like." Applicants have amended Claim 10 to delete the phrase "or the like." Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of Claim 10 under § 112, second paragraph.

In addition, Applicants have added new dependent Claims 36-41, which depend from independent Claim 10 and include all of the recitations of Claim 10. Thus, for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to independent Claim 10, it is respectfully submitted that dependent Claim 36-41 are further patentable over the references cited as these dependent claims now depend from an allowable base claim.

The foregoing is submitted as a full and complete response to the Office Action mailed July 31, 2008. The foregoing amendments and remarks are believed to have placed the present application in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested. The Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at (404) 881-7640 or e-mail at chris.haggerty@alston.com to resolve any remaining issues to expedite examination of the present application.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christopher S. Haggerty", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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